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A SPECIAL SECTION

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Look East for the Decision

Leaders in the West held their breath.

Sensible men, they could not conceive of a great conflict in a time of H-bomb destructiveness, but nations were playing fast and loose with the detonators of war.

The world had moved steadily nearer the rim of disaster.

In Washington, the private word was that the next few days would be decisive. What to do? Measure the hours, count the minutes, note the seconds until the Soviet Union showed whether there would be a big war, small war, or some kind of reprieve which, for a time, anyway, might hold back terror from the night.

The Russians held the key.

The Kremlin, its deadly deed done in Hungary, made persistent motions toward war.

First, Moscow threatened direct intervention in the Middle East. Britain, France, and Israel then stopped short of their objectives and accepted a United Nations cease-fire order.

Next, invoking threats of a "volunteer" force to fight alongside the Egyptians, Moscow demanded that the three nations withdraw from Egypt.

Then, with more belligerence and deliberation, the Russians moved to stir the Arab nations against the West. In effect, the Arabs were given the go-ahead to goad Israel into attack. Washington

felt that the Kremlin would welcome another Korea in the Middle East.

The West could find little or no comfort in the outlook on any front:

1—Russia's prestige—despite news of the Hungarian savagery—was never higher among the Moslem peoples.

2—Egyptian dictator Nasser, whose dream of an Arab empire had set off the explosive chain of events in the Middle East, had vaulted to even greater stature. He was still the man who could bring about Hot War.

3—The Suez Canal had been blocked and the world's shipping has been forced to ply the long route around the Cape of Good Hope.

4—Delivery of badly needed oil from the rich fields of the Middle East was cut off or delayed and severe shortages were only days away. Europe faced a winter of real hardship.

But such prospects were only particles in the larger picture. Those who watched the clocks in the West gravely measured the hours.

For Top of the Week crisis developments, see the next ten pages, also NEWSWEEK's SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS report—Oil: Famine in the Future? (page 99) and Press Reporting Under Fire (page 87).



THE VICTOR OF BUDAPEST: Safe in Vienna after being held captive by the Red Army, Newsweek's Eldon Griffiths, tells the incredible story of Russia's suppression of Hungary. Page 52.